

# **Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office**



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive  
Darlington, WI 53530-9271  
Phone: (608) 776-3836

\* These minutes are subject to the approval of the Land Conservation Committee on 1/5/2016 \*

## **MINUTES MEETING OF THE LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE USDA AG CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chairman Leon Wolfe. Others present: Bartels, Hammer, James, Wang, J. Wiegel, Bartz, Lange, Loeffelholz, and Larson.

Larson stated that the agenda was posted in the USDA Service Center, by the County Clerk's Office, the Darlington Municipal Building, the Darlington Post Office, on the Lafayette County Webpage; and was sent to the press, WEKZ, the DNR, and DATCP.

Motion was made by Bartels and second by Hammer to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Motion made by J. Wiegel and second by James to approve the minutes of the 11/3/15 LCC meeting, as printed. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

### **Field Staff & Department Head Report:** Lange referenced his Tech Report –

- He has been working on CREP contracts. He received 9 from FSA, and has 3 of those sent to DATCP.
- Lange is assisting with teaching Nutrient Management Planning (NMP) classes with Grant County. A Nutrient Crediting Class is being held tomorrow from Noon until 3:00 at the UW Platteville Farm. He has 17 signed up, including 1 Amish, and 7 of the students are from Grant County. Bay, Bartz, Jenks, Schneider, Loeffelholz, and Baxter are also assisting in the SnapPlus Training on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Cover Crop Training – Hammer said that Indiana has billboards to promote cover crops. There is a variety of crops used, including wheat, rye, radishes, turnips, hairy vetch, and crimson clover.
- Brandt was on a conference call, and unable to attend the meeting.
- Loeffelholz reported that Brandt had been at Brines' for soil borings for wetland scrapes.
- He also participated in a video conference by the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Horseshoe Lake had a survey for repair work.
- He has been working with Dan Haldiman near South Wayne also.
- The McDermott and Sonsalla wetland projects have been completed.
- Tree Orders and Winterize equipment.

Loeffelholz has been working with the Amish who purchased the Crompton property to lay out a key line for contour strips. The father-in-law wants the strips. They don't have cattle yet, but do have feed in the silos. They hope to have cows in April. Part of the hay ground has been in long enough to be organic, and they plan to wait for the rest to qualify. Buffer strips will be used for the horse, and don't need to be organic.

Thursday and Friday he will be in Wisconsin Rapids for the County Conservationist meeting.

**USDA Programs:** Bartz reported that NRCS has been working on:

-CSP payments

-CRP – There has been a lot of interest, and they working on eligibility maps.

-HELI contracts – They've had several calls from James' area. Rental rates are pretty high, with some up to \$296/ac. plus incentive rates for seeding mixes. Rental rates begin at \$150, with most at \$276. James said the CP25 mix on a 15 year agreement has a rate of \$373, plus a signing bonus if it is within 1,000 ft. of running water in the Priority Area. (Running water must be at least 21 days per year.) NRCS is making those determinations.

-Cover Crop payments have been completed.

-Forestry Training – Area Office will help with grazing plans.

**Other Agency Reports:** None

**Voluntary Notice of Non-Compliance:** Lange presented Notices of Non-compliance for Dorothy Edge, Bruce & Mary Ellen Rear, Hubert Heins, Don Wedig, and Ken Kraemer. Motion by J. Wiegel and second by Hammer to accept the Notices of Non-compliance as presented. Motion carried.

**FSA Programs Progress-Discussion:** CRP General Sign-Up starts today. Wolfe and James both stated that they have received their payments.

**Conservation Farmer Award Information – Possible Nomination of Candidates:**

-Oltahfer – No Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)

-Shelliam-does have NMP. Lange stated a State Award generally needs more practices. Bartz stated he has done several, but is very open to conservation. He would be a good candidate for many years. Loeffelholz stated he would contact Olthafers. They have pasture, but no riprap. They do have the UW test stations, and a lot of CRP. They might be a stronger candidate in a couple of years.

-Russell Bros. Farms – Will do what is right. Bruce started adding the conservation practices with waterways and no-till beans. Loeffelholz stated that they also have beans with cover crops. Hammer stated he would like to see someone from SW Wisconsin in the awards program.

Motion by Hammer and second by Bartels to nominate Russell Bros. Farms this year, and to use Olthafer and Shelliam for future nominations. Motion carried.

**Plastics Recycling:** Highway delivered 32 containers to some of the larger farms. The dumpsters are a new design and made from the recycled plastic.

Wolfe stated they are also working on a tire collection with Faherty's. They hope to have it this fall yet, and to keep the price to \$1-\$2. There is an Extension meeting tomorrow, and they will be discussion it further.

A Clean Sweep with Grant and Iowa Counties is being planned for 2017. They will need to choose what is needed. Electronics can go to Madison, and the Darlington Fire Department also hosts one. Loeffelholz asked if ag chemicals were as much an issue because of the cost of product, and more commercial application. James said farmers may have small quantities leftover, or change of types being used.

**In Correspondence:**

Loeffelholz – Daniel Lapp is being sued by Kendall Township in regard to his driveway. He has 20 days to respond, and it does sound like he will be giving a reply. It may go in front of a Judge.

**Approval of Vouchers:** Motion by James and second by Hammer to approve the vouchers. Motion carried

**Future agenda items:** Plastics & Tire Recycling and Clean Sweep

The next meeting of the LCC will be Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

Motion by Bartels and second by James to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 a.m. Motion carried.

Recorded By

Nikki Larson  
For Leon Wolfe  
LCC Secretary

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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